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Third. A gold medal, to be known as the "Charles A. Coffin Medal," will be awarded annually to the electric railway company within the United States which, during the year, has made the greatest contribution towards increasing the advantages of electric transportation for the convenience and well-being of the public and the benefit of the industry. The company receiving the medal will also receive one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for its employees' benefit or similar fund.

Fourth. Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) is to be awarded annually for fellowships to graduates of American colleges and technical schools who, by the character of their work, and on the recommendation of the faculty of the institution where they have studied, could with advantage continue their research work either here or abroad; or some portion or all of the fund may be used to further the research work at any of the colleges or technical schools in the United States. The fields in which these fellowships and funds for research work are to be awarded are: Electricity; physics; physical chemistry.

A committee appointed by the foundation committee will award such fellowships and funds for research work, with the advice and cooperation of a committee of three, one to be appointed by each of the following: The National Academy of Sciences, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education. This committee is to be known as the "Charles A. Coffin Fellowship and Research Fund Committee" and the fellowships are to be known as the "Charles A. Coffin Fellowships."

The board of directors of the General Electric Company has appointed as the "Charles A. Coffin Foundation Committee" the following officers of the company: A. W. Burchard, J. R. Lovejoy, E. W. Rice, Jr., Gerard Swope and O. D. Young.

The following committee, to administer the fund and to act with organizations outside the company, have been appointed:

Committee to cooperate with the National Electric Light Association: A. H. Jackson, J. R. Lovejoy, vice-presidents.

Committee to cooperate with the American Electric Railway Association: J. G. Barry and A. H. Jackson, vice-presidents.

Committee to cooperate with the National

Academy of Sciences, American Institute of Electrical Engineers and the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education: E. W. Rice, Jr., honorary chairman, A. H. Jackson, vice-president, and W. R. Whitney, director of research laboratory.

THE SOCIETY OF SIGMA XI

THE annual convention of the Society of the Sigma Xi will be held in Cambridge on December 27, at the time of the meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The program of the convention includes the following:

2:30 P.M. Business session.

6:15 P.M. Annual dinner.

8:45 P.M. Joint meeting with the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Address, "The Nation and its Health," by President Farrand of Cornell University.

The chapters of Sigma Xi are entitled to delegates with the right to vote at the business session. Attendance at the business session or the dinner or the evening address is not limited to delegates. All members of the society are invited to be present and will be welcome at all the meetings. A special desk for the registration of members of Sigma Xi will be provided in the registration bureau of the association, where programs and dinner tickets may be secured. Clerks will be in attendance at this registration desk on December 26 and 27.

The business session of the convention will be one of unusual importance, since a complete revision of the constitution of the society is to be brought up for adoption. The revision has been made necessary by the growth of the society as well as by the expansion of its work. Sigma Xi is no longer a society of a few chapters scattered among the educational institutions of the country, but it is a large organization numbering thirty-eight chapters in universities and in some of the research institutions of the country. In addition to this active membership there are scattered over the country and the world some fifteen thousand members of Sigma Xi, who by the provisions of the new constitution will be brought into closer touch with the work of the society. All

members of Sigma Xi, whether delegates from chapters or not, are invited and urged to take this occasion to get acquainted with the new spirit in the organization.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Lalande Medal of the Paris Academy of Sciences has been awarded to Dr. Henry Norris Russell, director of the Princeton Observatory. The Janssen Medal goes to Dr. Carl Stormer, professor of pure mathematics at the University of Christiana, for his work on the aurora borealis.

DR. SIMON FLEXNER, director of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York, was elected an honorary member of the Copenhagen Medical Society at a recent meeting celebrating the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of that body.

At a general meeting of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, held on November 7, the society's gold medal was awarded to Professor J. W. Gregory, University of Glasgow, in recognition of the scientific importance of results obtained by him through explorations in Spitsbergen, Australia, East Africa and south-west China.

DR. J. BORDET, professor of bacteriology at Brussels, has been given an honorary degree by the University of Paris.

DR. H. J. KAMMERLINGH ONNES, of the University of Leiden, celebrated on November 11 the completion of his fortieth year of service as professor of physics.

A BANQUET was tendered Dr. Calleja, professor of histology at the University of Madrid, on the occasion of his fiftieth professional anniversary.

DR. JOHN W. HARSHBERGER, professor of botany at the University of Pennsylvania, has been made a member of the Swedish Linnæan Society and of the Finnish Forestry Society.

DR. F. W. PEABODY, of Boston, professor of medicine at the Medical School of Harvard University, and physician-in-chief of the Boston City Hospital, has been elected a member

of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dr. C. L. Alsberg, formerly chief of the Bureau of Chemistry, Department of Agriculture, and now director of the Food Research Institute of Stanford University.

DR. KENYON L. BUTTERFIELD, president of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, has been reelected president of the American Country Life Association for 1922-23. C. J. Galpin, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, is first vice-president.

THE British Institution of Civil Engineers has made the following awards for papers printed in the *Proceedings* for the session 1921-1922: A George Stephenson gold medal to Dr. B. C. Laws (London); Telford premiums to Professor L. Bairstow (London), Dr. A. J. Sutton Pippard (London), Mr. E. A. Cullen (Brisbane), Mr. H. H. Dare (Roseville, N. S. W.), and Mr. F. W. Stephen (Aberdeen). For papers read before meetings of students in London and the provinces the following awards have been made: A Miller prize and the James Forrest medal to Mr. F. H. Bullock (Cardiff); and Miller prizes to Mr. J. G. Mitchell (London), Mr. A. G. McDonald (London) and Mr. Harry Wolf (Manchester).

PROFESSOR E. W. BROWN, of Yale University, will be absent from New Haven until April, 1923. His address will be care of the Bishop Museum, Honolulu, H. I.

DR. R. S. BREED, chief in research (bacteriology) at the New York State Agricultural Station, has been granted six months' leave of absence beginning on March 1, 1923, for the purpose of special study of bacteriological problems at the Pasteur Institute and of dairy sanitation in France, Denmark and Holland.

DR. LOUIS I. DUBLIN, statistician of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, will deliver the third Harvey Society Lecture at the New York Academy of Medicine, on Saturday evening, December 16, 1922. His subject will be "The Possibilities of Human Life."

At the November meeting of the Society of the Sigma Xi of the University of Wisconsin